

SECRET

GOVERNMENT	AS INDICATED	REPORT NO.	10-1-60
OTHER	PALMISTINE	DATE OF REPORT	27 February 1946
NOTES	JAMES A. JAMES	DATE OF INFORMATION	28 February 1946
SUB-GOVERNMENT	INITIATION	DOCUMENTARY	
NAME			
SECRET	Arab League Council Meeting		

1. The following is quoted from the Jewish Agency's Internal Report on Arab Information (Publication No. 4/48 of 28 February 1946)

The Arab League Council, which is meeting in Cairo, will apparently be unable to make any headway with the deliberations until it meets during the results of Arab pressure in connection with the meeting of the Security Council, due to take place in February. It would seem that the League intends to shape its next moves and the time-table in accordance with the prospective developments in the Security Council, with a view to see how the initial discussions there turn out. Several indications of security in British and American policy, as well as the attitude of the International Commission on the Arab and Jewish Question of 1946, as evidenced by the statement that the body seems more or less, as evidenced by the statement that the League's projected cooperation of future developments (which results in the fact that it took no major decisions during the past week) has caused some anxiety. This was expressed by "Hague", which thought that the League's position might not be meeting more than a temporary solution. The development that arises in this situation with reference to the League's activities was noted by International Council during the initial stages of the meeting. According to the above had been a widespread hope that the present meeting would achieve a solution of all the outstanding Arab problems. He expressed that the League had not fulfilled a single one of the principles of Arab unity.

The most important decision taken by the League Council concerns the establishment of a new Arab Committee. The actual deliberations of the Council were apparently postponed to some extent for the reasons given above. According to a report from another source, which has not yet been verified, the Arab Committee, formed after the Foreign Minister and new representatives of the Arab Committee, were to discuss the League's Political Committee indicated between the "Political" and military authorities in Palestine (1-2-46) between the Arab and Military Committees). According to "Hague", the present "Hague" resolutions have already been adopted. "Hague" told about full agreement having been reached between the Arab and the League. The Arab even expressed the intention with the agreement to a representative of "Hague", on the Committee side, it has been

SECRET

Handwritten signature/initials

SECRET

decided to enlarge the budget for aid to Palestine by LP 500,000. "Phalag" writes that it has been decided that the League's Palestine Committee is the only body authorized to collect funds, undertake recruiting and buy arms; and "Ahram" adds that a financial administration for Palestine has been set up as well. "Ahram" goes on to state that Imail Safwat's demands in the military sphere have been met. (Even after the question of the supreme command had been settled in Damascus, numerous military problems still remained to be solved apart from the timetable, which had been laid down by the politicians. These problems included the arrangement of supplies, the extension of recruiting and training, and the question of the "second front", which the Muslim Brotherhood and Hiar al-Fatat are anxious to see opened.) The question of supplies was also discussed, and it was decided to invite an expert in this field from the A.H.F. in Jerusalem. It is further reported that the League has decided to send a delegation to Jaffa to conduct an inquiry on the spot into the special position of that town since the outbreak of the disorders.

It is stated officially that the League Council is expected to conclude its meeting within the next few days; but in view of past practice it is not unlikely that it will remain in session pending the end of the discussions in the Security Council, or until it empowers the Political Committee or a special committee to act on its behalf if necessary.

Comments

The same Jewish Agency report states that "According to 'Ahram', it was decided on 15 February to set up an Arab administrative body" which would be the ministry of the Arab command and deal with all Arab affairs in Palestine. "Phalag" refers to this body as the "Supreme Advisory Committee". The purpose and functions of this body have not yet been adequately clarified. Imail Ghazal believes that its functions are mainly military, and he is not afraid that there will be any overlapping with the varied tasks carried out by the A.H.F., which is responsible for the whole of Palestine. The members of the Committee are 'Asom, the Mufti and Hiss Hadadim. It has not yet been decided who will be chairman. It is reported that the Committee will have branches in the Arab countries, and that it will set up sub-committees for supply, military affairs, finance and medical services. It is believed that this "New Arab Committee" referred to in paragraph 2 is the Supreme Advisory Committee".

In speculating as to whether the establishment of the Advisory Committee adds or detracts from the Mufti's strength, the Jewish Agency report infers that no conclusion can yet be drawn. However, it states, "The A.H.F. made its first appearance at the present session of the League Council on 14 February, and on 16 February the Mufti was officially recognized as the Palestinian representative on the League. This constitutes a political gain for him".

SECRET

SECRET

The "miniature selective administration" referred to in paragraph 2 of the Jewish Agency's Internal Report on Arab World Affairs, No. 22(19) attached to EPI-662 is dealing with the same subject. Likewise, EPI-662, paragraph 3 referred to the formation of this administrative body, with discrepancy in membership as noted.

Field Distribution: Washington (3) [] (2) [] (2) [] (2) []
files (2).

SECRET